

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

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R 110934Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9011

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19327

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, TH

SUBJ: GENERALS KRIT AND SAN ON SECURITY IN THE SOUTH

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK FM SONGKHLA DEC 11

RPTD FOR YOUR INFO:

SONGKHLA 044

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS TH

SUBJ: GENERALS KRIT AND SAN ON SECURITY IN THE SOUTH

REF: SONGKHLA 043

1. AT DINNER DECEMBER 9 IN HAAD YAI (REFTEL) RTA COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF GENERAL KRIT SIWARA TOLD ME SECURITY SITUATION IN FAR SOUTH HAD IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY SINCE MAJ. GEN. SAN CHITBATIMA HAD ASSUMED CHARGE OF COMBINED OPERATIONS IN THE MUSLIM PROVINCES. KRIT EMPHASIZED THAT RTG WOULD ALSO FOCUS ON NON-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SITUATION: ARD TO BEGIN ROAD-BUILDING PROGRAM IN MUSLIM AREAS, RTG TO PROVIDE MORE FUNDS TO SEND MUSLIMS TO MEDICAL AND OTHER SPECIALIZED SCHOOLS TO INCREASE PERCENTAGE OF MUSLIM PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE IN THE AREA.

2. REGARDING NEW FOURTH ARMY TO BE CREATED FOR THE SOUTH,

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SAN SAID HE IS NOW ENVISIONING THREE NEW BATTALIONS -- ONE EACH IN

SURAT, YALA AND TRANG (FIRST TIME TRANG HAS BEEN MENTIONED AS NEW RTA SITE). THE YALA BATTALION WILL BE INFANTRY AND RECRUITED HEAVILY FROM MUSLIM POPULATION IN HOPES OF IMPRESSING ON LOCAL POPULACE NEED TO PROTECT ITS OWN SECURITY.

3. BOTH MEN STRESSED THAT SEPARATISTS ARE BIGGEST SECURITY PROBLEM AMONG THE THREE INSURGENCIES NOW ACTIVE IN THE SOUTH, POSING GREATER POTENTIAL THREAT THAN CPT. SAN SAID HE HAD CAPTURED MORE WEAPONS -- MAINLY M-16'S -- IN MUSLIM PROVINCE OPERATIONS AND REPEATED THAT MONEY AND GUNS CONTINUE TO COME IN FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES. WHEN ASKED IF HE SAW ANY OF THIS SUPPORT LINKED TO RADICAL ARAB OR MUSLIM GROUPS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST, HE SMILED "NONE AT ALL".

COMMENT: SAN HAS MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE HE CONSIDERS THE AID IS COMING IN THROUGH MALAYSIA AND THAT HE IS UNHAPPY ABOUT IT. CASTRODALE
MASTERS

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NNN

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